

### REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated September 29, 2004, having a shortened statutory period set to expire December 29, 2004. In the present Amendment, Claims 1, 13, 15, 25 and 27 are amended and Claims 2, 4, 6, 18, 20, 23 and 30 are cancelled. Claims 1, 13-16, 21, 25 and 27-28 are now pending.

### ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In paragraphs 11 and 12 of the present Office Action, Applicant notes with appreciation that Claims 13, 23 and 27 (and their dependent claims) would be allowable if rewritten to overcome their 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections. Applicant's undersigned representative spoke with the Examiner by telephone on November 30, 2004. The Examiner suggested that amending these claims to more clearly describe the supportive nature of the user's fingers to support the finger support member would cause these claims to be in allowable form. Applicant has so amended the relevant claims (by amending independent Claims 13 and 27 and by amending independent Claim 15 to incorporate the features of dependent Claim 23), and respectfully requests a notice of allowance for all pending claims.

If Applicant's representative has misunderstood the suggestion of the Examiner, then Applicant's representative respectfully requests that he be contacted by the Examiner by calling the telephone number shown below.

### CLAIM OBJECTIONS

In Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the present Office Action, Claims 4 and 6 and Claims 18 and 20 are objected to for redundantly claiming the features of respective Claims 2 and 16. Claims 4, 6, 18 and 20 are now cancelled, thus making the objection moot.

### REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

In paragraph 6 of the present Office Action, Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C.(a) as being unpatentable over Jondrow et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,416,479 – “Jondrow”) in view of

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Kress (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,406 – “*Kress*”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As claimed in Claim 2 and supported by the specification, the present invention includes the feature of a plate-like structure that is “stowable in a card slot of an information processing unit.” The Examiner cites *Jondrow*, which teaches a stowable handle, but does not teach or suggest a stowable input unit, and particularly an input unit having a plate-like structure that is stowable in a card slot of an information processing unit. Likewise, *Kress* does not teach or suggest this feature.

**CONCLUSION**

As the cited prior art does not teach or suggest all of the claimed features, and having now complied with the suggestions of the Examiner, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

No extension of time for this response is believed to be necessary. However, in the event an extension of time is required, that extension of time is hereby requested. Please charge any fee associated with an extension of time as well as any other fee necessary to further the prosecution of this application to **IBM CORPORATION DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. 50-0563**.

Respectfully submitted,



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